

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7005

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 06190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PORG, JO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR LEONARD AND NATHANIEL HOWELL

REF: A. STATE 157035, B. AMMAN 6084

SUMMARY: IN CORDIAL DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD ON UNGA MATTERS OF INTEREST TO U.S. AND GOJ WIDE AREAS OF AGREEMENT EMERGED. JORDANIANS VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE INITIATIVE WITH ARAB GROUP TO ATTEMPT TO LIMIT DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS BY GROUPING SUBJECTS UNDER ONE AGENDA ITEM. THEY ALSO SAID THEY WOULD WORK DISCREETLY TO KEEP ZIONISM/RACISM FROM COMING UP IN UNGA BUT WOULD NOT OPPOSE RESOLUTION IF IT COMES UP THERE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 24 AMB. LEONARD AND NAT HOWELL, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE AND POLOFF, MET FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH JORDANIAN UN PERM REP HASEM NUSAYBAH, FONMIN SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKI AL-QSOUS, AND TWO WORKING LEVEL MINISTRY PERSONNEL ON UN ISSUES. JORDANIANS CLEARLY HAD PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION ON BASIS LIST OF TOPICS REFTTEL.

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2. JORDANIANS RAISED FEW QUESTIONS AND APPEARED IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH U.S. VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO/GUAM, UN RESTRUCTURING, KOREA, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES. HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION LARGELY REPETITION OF POINTS MADE IN REGARD TO WEST BANK TO U.S. REP TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEZVINSKY LAST WEEK (REF B). OTHER ISSUES COVERED WERE:

- A. UN FINANCIAL PROBLEMS:

- IN RESPONSE TO AMB. LEONARD'S PRESENTATION, NUSAYBAH OBSERVED THERE WAS A PROLIFERATION OF UN ACTIVITIES AND AGREED RESTRICTIONS DESIRABLE ON EXPENDITURES; HOWEVER, HE NOTED UNRWA, A NON-BUDGET ACTIVITY, EXISTING ON A HAND TO MOUTH BASIS AND REQUIRED SOMETHING MORE POSITIVE THAN PRESENT FUNDING SYSTEM. AMB. LEONARD, WHILE POINTING OUT THAT U.S. CONGRESS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND LACK OF SUPPORT FOR UNRWA FROM ARAB STATES, PARTICULARLY OIL STATES IN GULF, SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF A UN WORKING GROUP ON UNRWA FINANCING TO CONTACT DONOR STATES, POSSIBLY WITH A CONDITIONAL U.S. COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE MORE FUNDS IF OTHERS DID SO. HE ASKED IF NUSAYBAH THOUGHT SYRIA AND LEBANON WOULD JOIN SUCH AN EFFORT. NUSAYBAH SAID THEY WOULD.

- B. CYPRUS AND HANDLING OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION:

NUSAYBAH SAID JORDANIANS SUPPORTED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS) JORDANIANS OBSERVED THAT IT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE TO ELEVATE CYPRUS ITEM FROM POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO PLENARY. ISSUE COULD BE MANAGED BETTER IN COMMITTEE WHERE DISCUSSION EASIER AND LESS FORMAL. LEONARD AGREED AND ASKED CONFIDENTIAL

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IF JORDAN WOULD SUPPORT REVERSION TO POL CDMMITTEE IN GENERAL COMMITTEE. NUSAYBAH AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT NOTED THIS WOULD CAUSE JORDAN A PROBLEM WITH THE PLO, SINCE CYPRUS HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ELEVATION OF PALESTINE QUESTION TO THE GA. HE WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN BETTER IF THIS HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE. JORDAN AND SOME OTHER MODERATE ARAB STATES FELT THERE WERE TOO MANY ME AGENDA ITEMS; PERHAPS THEY OUGHT TO BE GROUPED UNDER ONE GENERAL AGENDA HEADING SO THERE WOULD BE ONE ME DEBATE WHICH WOULD HAVE GREATER IMPACT. LEONARD AGREED TO DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A GROUPING, AND NOTED THAT WHILE HE HAD NOT RAISED SUBJECT IN DAMASCUS, HE THOUGHT SYRIANS WOULD CONCUR. NUSAYBAH SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS IDEA WITH THE ARAB GROUP.

- C. UN REFORM:

"NEPOTISM" GROWING -- TOO MANY PEOPLE WERE BEING HIRED WITHOUT REGARD TO MERIT. WHEN LEONARD SAID WE ALWAYS PRESENTED AT LEAST THREE NOMINEES FOR EACH POST, NUSAYBAH SAID HE WOULD SUGGEST PROCEDURE TO ARAB GROUP.

- D. MASS MEDIA:

- JORDANIANS REPEATED THEIR VIEW THAT THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF FREE PRESS, BUT THAT THEY FELT NON-ALIGNED HAD A POINT IN THAT WESTERN PRESS NOT ADEQUATELY REPORTING NA . VIEWS.

- E. UNIFIL:

- IN COURSE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF LEBANON PROBLEM, . LEONARD UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF UNIFIL, NOTING THAT ON

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WHOLE WE BELIEVED IT DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB; IT WAS NOT FAVORING EITHER SIDE AND TROOP COMMANDERS WELL AWARE THEIR PROBLEMS MUST BE DIPLOMATICALLY HANDLED. WE HOPED TO HAVE STRONG ARAB SUPPORT FOR UNIFIL'S CONTINUATION. WITHOUT MAKING SPECIFIC COMMITMENT, JORDANIANS SEEMED TO AGREE ON NECESSITY OF ITS CONTINUATION.

- F. MIDDLE EAST:

- LEONARD SAID WE HAD NOT BEEN HAPPY WITH LAST YEAR'S DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST; THE USG HAD ADOPTED A NEW ME POLICY, BUT THE DEBATE WENT ON IN THE SAME STERILE WAY IT HAD IN THE PAST. WE HOPED THERE WOULD BE EARLY CONSULTATIONS THIS YEAR ON RESOLUTIONS SO THEY COULD BE FRAMED IN A WAY WE COULD SUPPORT THEM. NUSAYBAH TOOK POINT.

- G. RACISM/ZIONISM:

- IN THIS DISCUSSION, AND IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH COURT CHIEF SHARAF, JORDANIANS ARGUED THAT RESOLUTION HAD BEEN USEFUL, AND SPRANG FRDM ARAB CONVICTION THAT DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR OF JEWS AND AGAINST NON-JEWS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICULARLY ARABS, BASIC FEATURE OF ZIONISM. LEONARD ARGUED THAT RESOLUTION ABHORRENT TO US, NEEDLESSLY INFLAMMATORY, AND A LIABILITY TO ARABS THEMSELVES, PARTICULARLY IN THE U.S. BOTH NUSAYBAH AND SHARAF SAID THEY FULLY RECOGNIZED IT CAUSED ANTAGONISM IN THE U.S. AND SAID JORDAN HAD NO DESIRE TO "POISON THE ATMOSPHERE". WHILE IT WOULD HAVE TO VOTE FOR A REAFFIRMATION IF ONE CAME UP, THERE WAS NO POINT IN RAISING THE ISSUE AND JORDAN WOULD WORK TO PREVENT ANY REAFFIRMATION.

3. THE UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT, IOZP, AND NOTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.SUDDARTH

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